

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF ETHEL PESIN

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ethel Pesin for her years of dedicated public service and commitment to improving the community. Ethel Pesin will be honored at her 90th birthday celebration in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Mrs. Pesin's involvement in a variety of civic and community endeavors throughout the years has earned her great respect and appreciation. Her willingness to volunteer her time helping those in need and her genuine concern for the improvement and preservation of local landmarks has made a significant impact on Jersey City and the surrounding area. Working with the Hudson County Citizens Committee, Mrs. Pesin was instrumental in helping to save the Boulevard and the Hudson County Courthouse from being demolished. Some of her past volunteer efforts include participating in "Meals on Wheels" and offering piano performances at the Academy House, a center for the mentally ill.

Throughout the years, Mrs. Pesin's greatest passion has been devoted to the establishment and conservation of Liberty State Park (LSP). As a founding board of trustees member of the Friends of LSP, she has worked tirelessly to oppose commercialization and maintain and improve the beautification of the urban waterfront. In the past, she served on the LSP Public Advisory Commission and is currently a member of the LSP Interdisciplinary Planning Committee.

The daughter of Latvian immigrants, Mrs. Pesin was raised in Jersey City. She graduated from Syracuse University in 1935 with a degree in music and taught at Snyder Junior High School and Lincoln High School before teaching private lessons for seven years. She later served one term as president of the Jersey City State College Community Orchestra. Many in Jersey City also know Mrs. Pesin from the popular clothing store she and her husband, Morris, owned for 28 years. Mrs. Pesin and her husband were married for 54 years and she is the proud mother of two children, Sam and Judy.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ethel Pesin for her unwavering commitment to improving the natural and historic beauty of her city and her dedication to helping those in need throughout the community. Mrs. Pesin's warmth, compassion, love for family and friends, and enthusiasm for life has touched all who know her.

HONORING WILLIAM STAPKA

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to Mr. William Stapka of Chicago on the occasion of his 75 birthday.

Mr. Stapka has been an outstanding resident of the Norwood Park community for the past 45 years. Working at O'Hare for the City of Chicago's Aviation Department as well as in the precincts of Chicago, Mr. Stapka has been an ever present fixture of our community. His contributions to public service deserve our recognition and gratitude.

Born in Poland, Mr. Stapka understands the struggles facing immigrants in America. Like those who achieved success through hard work and a determined spirit, Mr. Stapka provided a pleasant and prosperous life for his family. After 33 years of working for the City of Chicago, Mr. Stapka retired as a chief operating engineer at O'Hare Airport.

Throughout his life, Mr. Stapka has demonstrated his firm commitment to public service, particularly through his contributions to Chicago's political system since 1960. He is an active member of Committeeman Tom Lyons and Alderman Pat Levar's 45th Ward Democratic Organization. He served as campaign treasurer for the beloved late Congressman Roman Pucinski, in his races for both the Chicago City Council and the U.S. House of Representatives. His loyalty to the Pucinski family continues to this day through his service as treasurer for Judge Aurelia Pucinski.

Taking an active role in all aspects of his life, Mr. Stapka is also a member of the Immaculate Conception Church and serves as a member of the Holy Name Society within this parish. Still young at heart, Mr. Stapka also volunteers as a referee for local men's college soccer teams.

Along with his late wife, Marcela, he raised three children: Susan, Andrew and Tom. Mr. Stapka is now the proud grandfather of three wonderful grandchildren: Nicole, Rebecca, and Randy.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 75th birthday of William Stapka. He is a man who has stood tall in the face of great challenges and difficulties, built an impeccable reputation, and after 75 years, he still maintains a youthful spirit. On behalf of the people of the northwest side of Chicago, I thank Mr. Stapka for all he has given to those around him, and wish him continued happiness in the future.

REMEMBERING SHIRLEY CHISHOLM (1924-2005), MEMBER OF CONGRESS 1968-1982

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, this week, America mourns the lost of a steadfast heroine. The first African American woman elected to Congress and the first person of color to run for president of the United States, Shirley Chisholm broke barriers and set standards. She represented the people of Brooklyn, New York but she carried with her the hopes and highest ideals of our entire nation.

As a former educator, Shirley Chisholm fought relentlessly in Congress to improve public education, particularly early childhood education. As one of the founders of the Congressional Black Caucus and the National Organization for Women, she hired an all-women staff during her first term in Congress. She was indeed resolute in her fight for equality, women's rights and civil rights.

Ms. Chisholm was known and respected across the political spectrum for her uncompromising integrity. She was unflinching in the face of great odds and unfailing in her willingness to fight for what she believed was right. In her words, she was 'unbought and unbossed.'

In 1972, Shirley Chisholm made history by declaring her bid for president. Although she did not win the Democratic nomination, she broke barriers for African Americans and women, thus helping to open the door of opportunity for those who followed her. She is a woman of great courage and a strong role model for young women around the world.

A trailblazer and triumphant spirit, Shirley Chisholm was truly a woman of the people. Her legacy will always be remembered.

FREEDOM FOR DIOSDADO GONZÁLEZ MARRERO

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Diosdado González Marrero, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González Marrero is a pro-democracy activist who is striving to create a Cuban society that recognizes human rights, freedom, and democracy. He has been a peaceful supporter in the cause of bringing liberty to an island shackled by a tyrant's brutal machinery of repression. Unfortunately, the dictator forcefully represses those who bravely support freedom instead of the despotic regime.

In 1999, Mr. González Marrero was locked in the totalitarian gulag for six months during

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the Ibero-American Summit held in Havana in November 1999. Despite being confined in the horrors of the gulag, Mr. González bravely continued his peaceful activities to bring liberty and freedom to Cuba.

Unfortunately, Mr. González Marrero was arrested again in March 2003, as part of the repulsive island wide crackdown against peaceful pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag.

The family of Mr. González Marrero has reported that he was being held in solitary confinement in a punishment cell where he is deprived of any sunlight, adequate ventilation or drinking water, and subjected to temperatures of 30 to 32 degrees centigrade. According to Amnesty International, Mr. González Marrero is suffering from high blood pressure and inadequate medical attention to his failing health.

Let me be very clear, Mr. González Marrero is languishing in the depraved dungeons of the tyrant's gulag because he desires freedom for the people of Cuba. His demand for the rights of man to be given back to the citizens of Cuba is the only reason that he is locked in the abhorrent filth of Castro's prisons.

Mr. Speaker, as we gather to celebrate the results of our democracy and to commence the first session of the 109th Congress, it remains repulsive that, only 90 miles from our shore, brave souls like Mr. González Marrero are locked in dungeons because they too believe in the freedoms we hold sacred to our way of life. My Colleagues, let us remember those who suffer under the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Let us demand the immediate release of Diosdado González Marrero and every prisoner of conscience languishing in the dungeons of totalitarian despots.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY COMPETITIVENESS ACT

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 250, "The Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act." I introduced this legislation in the 108th Congress, and it was passed by the House. I am re-introducing it in this Congress in the precise form passed last year. I am doing this because the global competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing remains a pressing issue.

This bill will help address long-term problems facing our nation's manufacturers by coordinating existing federal manufacturing programs, creating a new program to revive manufacturing innovation through collaborative research and development, and broadening and strengthening manufacturing extension.

Although manufacturing has experienced tremendous technological gains over the last few years, international competition has exacted a terrible toll on our nation's manufacturers. In particular, our small- and medium-sized firms are under tremendous pressure to become more efficient, to modernize, and to cut their prices. There is no evidence that these pressures are likely to go away.

In my conversations with manufacturers, I learned of their deep concern that the decline of manufacturing in the U.S. is undermining our ability to innovate. Innovation is the key to the development of new industries, without which our economy could stagnate. Governments of our global competitors are eagerly supporting investments in manufacturing R&D because they know that it is the foundation for sustained economic development.

If we are to continue to be the world technological leader, we need to rise to this new global challenge by supporting our manufacturers. The Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act, which received broad support in the House in the 108th Congress, will accomplish that by:

Creating an Interagency Committee that will coordinate the existing federal manufacturing research and development activities to ensure that they work as effectively and harmoniously as possible;

Creating a new collaborative research and development program for manufacturing technology;

Reauthorizing the critical programs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), a federal research laboratory dedicated to ensuring U.S. leadership in technology-based standards and industries;

Creating a fellowship program at NIST to develop U.S. manufacturing research expertise; and

Reauthorizing and creating a new grant program within the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program so that the MEP Centers can extend their expertise to a range of problems beyond their current scope of activities.

Mr. Speaker, globalization is in full swing. It is incumbent upon this Congress to provide a coherent federal response to the changes that are underway in manufacturing, and to support the technological innovation that is fundamental to retaining our manufacturing strength. This bill provides a mechanism for that crucial response and I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue in the 109th Congress.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND THOMAS C. BLESSIN, S.J.

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Thomas C. Blessin, S.J., for his 55 years of service to the Society of Jesus and the people of his community. Father Blessin will be receiving the 2004 Reverend James F. Fox, S.J. Award at the Loyola School of New York's Annual Alumni Dinner on January 7, 2005.

Throughout the years, Father Blessin provided a strong spiritual foundation for the members of his community. Born, raised, and ordained in Staten Island, he later moved to New Jersey where he spent decades ministering to the community and attending to the spiritual needs of congregants at various churches, missions, and spiritual retreats.

In addition to his work with churches around the area, Father Blessin served for 9 years as the assistant headmaster at Loyola High School and an additional 2 years as the school chaplain. For 25 years, he was a chaplain and active member of the New Jersey National Guard. He later worked at St. Peter's College where he offered mass and assisted with student services. Currently, he is retired and living in the Jesuit residence at St. Peter's College in Jersey City.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Reverend Thomas C. Blessin, S.J., for his outstanding spiritual leadership and years of faithful service to the people of New Jersey. His dedicated work throughout the decades has helped to enrich the lives of so many throughout our community.

REMEMBERING MONSIGNOR  
MCDERMOTT

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a beloved leader of the Chicago Archdiocese, Monsignor Ignatius D. McDermott, who passed away on December 31.

Monsignor McDermott, known affectionately as Father Mac, was born on Chicago's South Side on July 31, 1909. He was ordained in 1936 after studying at Quigley Preparatory Seminary and Mundelein's St. Mary of the Lake Seminary.

Demonstrating a lifelong commitment to helping those most in need, Monsignor McDermott often walked the streets of Chicago's poorest neighborhoods in order to comfort the homeless and help recovering drug addicts and alcoholics return to sobriety, happiness and meaningful lives.

In 1946, Monsignor McDermott was appointed assistant director to the Chicago Archdiocese's Catholic Charities. Advancing his commitment to helping individuals with substance abuse problems, he founded Catholic Charities' Addiction Consultation and Education Services and the Central States Institute of Addiction.

After nearly four decades of service, Monsignor McDermott cofounded the Haymarket Center in 1975. Named for its location near Haymarket Square in Chicago, the detoxification center offers residential and outpatient services. As a direct result of Monsignor McDermott's compassion and dedication, the center has continued to expand over the years and now serves over 14,006 people each year.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the people of Chicago in recognizing the life of Monsignor McDermott. Together we honor his service and lifelong dedication to community service as well as the lasting impact he has had on the countless individuals he touched and whose spirits he lifted throughout his distinguished career. His many contributions leave an indelible mark on our community that will always be remembered.